

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace paragraph 0034 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment, the acquisition layer 104 may comprise a plurality of fragments 110 made of an open-celled, polyacrylate-based foam material, wherein each fragment 110 exhibits a planar extension, exhibiting a longitudinal direction being shown by a longitudinally extending center line IV, and a transversal direction being shown by a transversally extending center line III. Further, each fragment 110 exhibits a thickness direction being perpendicular to the planar extension. The width 111 in the transversal direction on each fragment 110 in a dry condition, preferably does not exceed 10 millimeters. The fragments 110 of the acquisition layer 104 further exhibit a length 112, which preferably does not exceed 20 millimeters. The fragments 110 in the acquisition layer 104 are arranged in a portion of the crotch portion 108 of the absorbent structure between the end portions 109. The outermost fragments in the portion containing the fragments determine the total area of the portion. In order to determine the area of that portion of the absorbent structure, a line is drawn between the outer edges of outermost fragments. This portion is indicated with a dotted line ~~[[116]]~~ 17 in Figure 1.

Kindly replace paragraph 0036 with the amended paragraph:

Fig. 3 shows a cross-section along a transversally-extending center line I of an alternative embodiment of an absorbent article 300 according to the invention. The absorbent article 300 has a liquid-permeable top sheet 301, which during use of the article 300 is intended to lie closest to the user, a substantially liquid-impermeable back sheet 302, and an absorbent structure ~~303, 304, 305~~ enclosed

therebetween. An acquisition layer 304 comprises three separate fragments 310. The fragments are constituted of strips extending in the longitudinal direction of the article. Between the strips, there is a space being free from the acquisition material, *i.e.*, a hollow space, 314. Preferably the strips comprise a superabsorbent foam material. Upon wetting, such a superabsorbent expands heavily in all directions of the material. Thus, the hollow spaces 314 render space for the superabsorbent foam material to expand without substantially changing the shape of the absorbent structure.

Kindly replace paragraph 0037 with the following amended paragraph:

The storage layer is divided in an upper and a lower storage layer ~~[[313]]~~ 305 and ~~[[305]]~~ 306, at which the acquisition layer 304 is placed between these two layers. The upper and the lower storage layers may be of the same material compositions as has been stated above with respect to the storage layers 105 and 106 in Fig. 1. The material composition can be the same in the two layers ~~[[303]]~~ 305 and ~~[[305]]~~ 306, or it can be different, *e.g.*, the content of cellulosic fluff pulp and superabsorbent material may be different in the different layers.